THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKARA MURTHY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

(c) and (d) United Bank of India has reported that as on 30.11.1994 the outstanding balance under the Scheme was about Rs. 100 crores in 2.7 lakh accounts.

संसद सदस्यों को उनके अध्ययन दौरों के लिए विदेशी मुद्रा उपलब्ध कराना

3408. श्री अजीत जोगी : क्या वित्त मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) संसद सदस्यों को उनके अध्ययन दौरों के लिए इस समय कितनी विदेशी मुद्रा दी जाती है ;

(ख) क्या सरकार इस राशि में वृद्धि करने का विचार रखती है ताकि संसद सदस्य अपने अध्ययन दौरों का अधिकतम उपयोग कर सकें ;

(ग) यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है ; और

(घ) यदि नहीं, तो इसके क्या कारण हैं ?

वित्त मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री एम० वी० चन्द्रशेखर मूर्ति) : (क) कोई भी संसद सदस्य विदेशों में अध्ययन दौरों के प्रत्येक अध्ययन सत्र के लिए एक लाख रूपये के बराबर विदेशी मुद्रा प्राप्त कर सकता है।

(ख) जी नहीं।

(ग) प्रश्न नहीं उठता।

(घ) यह राशि केवल 1993 में ही 27,000 रूपये से बढ़ाकर एक लाख रूपये की गई है। इसके अलावा सरकारी दौरों के लिए नियमानुसार अतिरिक्त विदेशी मुद्रा जारी की जाती है।

Import duty on Resin

3409. SHRI B. K. HARI PRASAD: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the pitiable condition of more than a lakh of workers engaged in resin tapping industry in Himachal and UP who have been rendered jobless because of liberalised import Policy of the Government resulting in flooding of imported resin from China, Indonesia and Brazil at cheaper rate;

(b) whether the import duty on resin is exempted thereby making it cheaper to domestic resin and thereby rendering many small scale units processing resin idle and their capacities grossly under-utilised; and

(c) whether Government would ensure placing the domestic resin industry on even keep by imposing countervailing duty on resin imports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V CHANDRASHEKARA MURTHY): (a) to (c) The reference appears to be in the context of oleo pine resin. Before this Budget, the import duty was 10% on such resin. Requests were received from the Government of Himachal Pradesh and Ministry of Environment and Forests for raising the import duty to 20% and for imposing a countervailing duty of 15%. The Government have raised the import duty on oleo pine resin from 10 per cent to 20 per cent in this year's Budget.

As oleo pine resin is exempted fully from excise duty, it is not possible to impose additional duty of customs on their import into India.

Government is not aware whether the present level of import duty has resulted in large scale unemployment in resin tapping industry in Himachal and UP.